

their lives before we act to put an end to gun violence. The answer, in my opinion, should be none. No more Americans should have to lose their lives.

There are a number of proposals in Congress available today that House Republicans could bring to the floor for a vote. There is legislation available now to bolster the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. There is legislation available now to reinstate a federal ban on assault weapons. There is legislation available now to study the costs of gun violence. Yet, none of these bills have seen the light of day on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to do the people's bidding and work cooperatively with Democrats to pass meaningful and comprehensive gun reforms so that we can finally put an end to this senseless violence.

POLITICS RATHER THAN POLICY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, late Governor of Tennessee Ned McWherter used to say: If you don't want to work, you shouldn't hire out.

Speaker RYAN, if you don't want to work, if your team doesn't want to work, you shouldn't have run for office and hired out.

We are taking off for nearly 8 weeks of vacation when we should be here dealing with gun violence; when we should be dealing with the voting rights extension, which we have not done with elections coming up; when we should be dealing with the Zika virus, which threatens the health of our people; when we should be dealing with the Flint water crisis. We are leaving for 8 weeks of vacation.

This Congress started 8 years ago with terrible political priorities. Rather than policy, it was politics. MITCH MCCONNELL said their job was to see to it that Barack Obama didn't get re-elected. What did we do this week? We had hearings about Hillary Clinton and emails. That is politics. We didn't have questions of the U.S. Attorney General about voting rights or gun violence.

If you don't want to work, don't hire out. Ned McWherter was right, Speaker RYAN. You shouldn't have come here without being willing to work.

GIVE US A VOTE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, do you remember when you were kids in school, and there was this big chart, and you learned how a bill becomes a law? It told you that somebody proposes an idea, and if it gets a majority in committee, it moves on. Then it gets to the floor of the House, and if it gets a majority, it moves on to the other body. Then, if it gets a majority, it goes to the President's desk, and the President signs it.

Take that chart and throw it away because that is not what happens here. We can't get a vote on the floor on gun control. We can't get the people's will listened to. Whether it is gun control or Flint, Michigan, or the Zika virus or anything, we can't get a vote.

All we are saying to the Republican leadership is to give us a vote—up or down, win or lose. The American people want to know where their legislators stand. This is a pressing issue. For us to ignore it is shameful and disgraceful.

This young man, Seth Rich, was just murdered—a young man here who worked in politics. We owe it to his life, to his remembrance, and to all of the other victims of gun violence. We need an up-or-down vote on the floor of the House.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago next week, a guy dressed up as the Joker barged into a theater in Aurora, Colorado, and killed 12 and wounded about 58 others. One of those killed was a young sports reporter named Jessica Ghawi—4 years ago.

Have we had one hearing on gun violence? Have we had one vote on gun violence in 4 years? No. The Republican majority has blocked every effort at just reasonable, sensible things like background checks, or, if you are a terrorist, you don't get a gun. Have we had one vote? Have we had one hearing? No, but people are dying—5 officers last week and 49 people in Orlando the month before that.

We need a hearing. The Republican majority has taken off for 7 weeks. These things have to be addressed. We are not going away. The subject is not going away. It is time for a vote. It is time for a hearing. It is not time for a 7-week recess. Jessica Ghawi deserves more than that.

THE POWER IS IN THE PEOPLE

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am embarrassed that Congress is going home today for 2 months after having done nothing about this outrageous use of guns in America. We are going home because it is an election year. We have 2 months to be with our constituents.

I hope that all constituents will approach their elected officials and ask them, their Members of Congress, and particularly the Republicans who are holding up this vote: Are you going to vote on this in September when you come back? Are we going to enact these laws? Because, if they are not, you can withhold their vote. You have the power. The power is in the people.

Let's take back our country. Let's ask every elected official, school board

member, city council, and water board, which have jurisdiction over real estate: What have they done to enact gun legislation?

California, which is the State I am from, has taken those actions: we have banned assault weapons; we require background checks; we have waiting periods before you can buy ammunition. We have done more than any other State. Guess what? The courts have upheld this.

We can do this. This is what elected officials are asked to do—to fix things that are broken and, particularly, in a crisis.

You, the voter, take back this country. Make your elected officials respond.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to the viewing audience.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 686

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor of H. Res. 686.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CONGRESS SOLVES PROBLEMS THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, Members have been coming forth all afternoon, talking about the fact that our constituents are feeling great anxiety. They feel and they look to Congress, and they think there are some issues here that we can deal with in our communities.

We are going to be having some very serious and deep conversations about some of the concerns that we have, but there are a few issues that this House—the people's House—needs to deal with while our constituents are dealing in their own houses with some of the concerns that are addressed by education, by poverty, by guns.

There are too many guns in their communities. We have been hearing repeatedly that we can close the gun show loophole here in Congress, in the people's House, and we should. We can close the fact that there are people who can fly today who are on no-fly lists. We can change that in the people's House.

We have to get on this, and that is why it is discouraging when there is time—when there are hours and minutes and days—that we are not working on these issues. People look to us. They want us to solve those problems that local government cannot solve alone.

DEMOCRATS WILL NOT BE SILENCED

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have a long to-do list before you can leave for the summer recess: we have got to pass legislation to prevent gun violence; we have got to pass legislation to fight the spread of Zika; we have got to pass legislation to address the Flint water crisis and to fund the opioid treatment plans. The clock is ticking—tick, tick, tick—and none of these will get done because you are getting ready for the longest summer recess in at least 60 years without addressing the very pressing issues that Americans really care about.

Republicans' inaction will not prevent Democrats from reminding the entire American Republic that we have got to do the right thing. During the next 7 weeks, we will continue to demand a vote on commonsense measures to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists. Hashtag, there are too many damned guns in America today.

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CONGRATULATING TIMOTHY THEODORE DUNCAN

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of so many young African American males who are fearful for their lives, who believe that America doesn't realize the exemplary lives that they each live.

I also rise to give an example of one African American male who gives the Virgin Islands tremendous pride today. I am here to honor Virgin Islands native and the greatest power forward of all time, Timothy Theodore Duncan, on his retirement from the National Basketball Association.

Throughout his storied 19-year career, Tim Duncan has won the NBA Rookie of the Year Award, five NBA championship titles, three NBA Final MVP awards, two NBA Most Valuable Player awards, and has earned the distinction of all-time leading scorer for his San Antonio Spurs.

The 15-time NBA All Star is an inspiration to many young Virgin Islanders and, indeed, Americans all over this country and is an integral figure in his own community for his efforts toward promoting interscholastic athletics and education. He is an exemplary gentleman, unselfish on and off the court.

The Virgin Islands community thanks him for his 19-year career in the NBA. We want to show him as an example of what can happen if one individual like himself can be on a street safely here in the United States, the great things that they can do.

THANKING MY CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my hard-working staff.

Over the past 6 years, I have had the honor and privilege to serve in this House of Representatives. At the end of this term, my time of service as a Member in this body will come to a close, as I honor my self-imposed term-limit pledge.

As I reflect on my congressional service, there has been a constant throughout this time. The first is my wonderful family. And the second is my incredible, selfless staff who have worked with me to serve the good people of our district.

We have a saying in our office, that we only hire people who love people. This may sound simple, but it is amazing, the difference it can make when you have a team of people dedicated to helping others. Every day, they exhibit compassion, kindness, patience, and really take the time to listen to our constituents.

For some of my staff, that was their first job out of college. More than a few started as an intern with us. For others, this job was a return from retirement, yet another chapter in a lifetime of service to this great Nation.

So many of our staff have stayed the entire 6 years, a loyalty for which I am deeply grateful. And those who have moved on have continued to excel, with achievements of which I am very proud. A couple are now on their well-deserved retirement.

When we close out our term, my team will have left a legacy of real, meaningful service to the people of New York and to this Nation. Their accomplishments are far too numerous to name, but I just want to highlight a very small sampling of the work they have accomplished.

Here in the House, we have been part of the effort to ensure our Armed Forces, our servicemen and -women, have the resources and support they need for the missions we ask of them. We have fought tireless battles to help all of our veterans, including our Blue Water Navy veterans who have been left out of Agent Orange coverage.

We have helped improve mental health care and made significant progress combating the scourge of opiate addiction that is devastating our communities. We have helped both our family farms and our small businesses and improved health care for seniors.

We passed the first bill that addresses Lyme disease and other tickborne illnesses. And we fought to empower students and teachers and to ensure our students weren't burdened with onerous, high-stakes testing in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, in our district, when we were hit with the devastating storms—Hurricanes Irene, Lee, and Sandy—my staff joined me on the front lines, from helping residents in the immediate aftermath of the storms to ensuring they received the assistance they needed to recover over the following years. We were committed to ensuring every community came back stronger than they were the day before the storm.

And we have continued other efforts. We have helped expand broadband access, and we have helped with conservation efforts. We have helped fix our roads and bridges and advocated for a countless number of grants to be awarded to our local businesses, nonprofits, fire departments, and the like.

My staff has also completed over 7,000 cases for my constituents. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you we have had so many constituents come up to my wife, Mary Jo, and I and tell us about the work that our staff has done that, in many cases, helped change their lives.

They are exceptional people, one and all. They are model public servants. I want to close with reading their names into our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for this day so that they get a small piece of the recognition they so richly deserve.

Before I do, Mr. Speaker, I also want to say thank you to each and every one of them and their families. Our communities are strong and our Nation is better because of their service.

Mr. Speaker, the members of Team Gibson, in alphabetical order: Robert Allard; Allison Argust; Sergeant First Class Dennis Bartow, U.S. Army National Guard; Katherine Better; Jeffrey Bishop; Steven Bulger, my district director; Paula Brown; Sergeant First Class (Retired) George Christian, U.S. Army National Guard; Nicholas Czajka; Sergeant First Class (Retired) Kathy Fallon, U.S. Army National Guard; Todd Felter; Remy Fortin; Brad Gentile; Nathan Gil; William Gonzales, New York State Trooper, retired; James Haggerty, United States Marine Corps, Korean war; Ridge Harris; Patricia Hohmann; Colonel Stephen Ledbetter, U.S. Army; Joseph Levi, a wounded Army combat veteran; Shay Mason; Major Patrick McGuigan, U.S. Army; Ann Mueller; Padraic O'Brien, now a New York State Trooper; Lieutenant Colonel Curt Owens, United States Army Reserves; Barbara Palmer; Megan Paulsen; Corinne Boughton Penston; Duane Postupak; Patricia Raucci; Peter Ryan; Brian Scarlett; Major Matthew Schardt, U.S. Army; Christine Schiff; Rebecca Shaw; Matthew Sheehy; Steven Stallmer; Theodore Stephan; Major Ricardo Turner, U.S. Army; Stephanie Valle, my chief of staff; Carol Waller; Mark Westcott; Anthony Zampelli; and Patrick Ziegler.

May God bless them all.

I yield back the balance of my time.